I claim:

1. A method of paying for a service with a ticket, said ticket comprising storage and communication means, the method comprising the steps of:
- maintaining a shadow account on said ticket;
- determining a provisional tariff for said service;
- posting said provisional tariff to said shadow account thereby generating an updated shadow account balance, said posting being in response to a registration for said service;
- generating a first data field comprising indication of said registration and ticket identification;
- transmitting said data field to a computer, said computer including storage means having ticket associated records, said records including a second data field comprising indication of an actual account; and
- posting an actual tariff to said actual account thereby generating an updated actual account balance.
- transmitting third data fields from a transceiver to said ticket, said third data fields comprising identification of said service and said provisional tariff;
- storing said third data fields in storage means of said ticket;
- transmitting fourth data fields from said ticket to said transceiver, said fourth data fields comprising identification of service location and said ticket identity;
- adding date and time information to said fourth data fields so as to generate modified fourth data fields
- storing said modified fourth data fields in a storage means associated with said transceiver
- transmitting said modified fourth data fields from said transceiver to said remote computer;
- calculating an actual cost based upon at least said actual tariff, service, and service location;
- booking said actual cost to said actual account; and
- saving said updated actual account balance associated with said ticket in a storage medium.

17

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein,
- said third data field further comprises said provisional tariff;

5 - said ticket comprises a display element for displaying information; and said method further comprises the step of:
- displaying said updated shadow account balance and said provisional tariff on said display.

10 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein,
- said ticket further comprises a display; and said method further comprises the step of:
- broadcasting a fifth data field so as to cause tickets located within a range of said broadcasting to display said
15 provisional tariff and said updated shadow account balance on said display.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein,
- said step of broadcasting is performed from at least one
20 transmitter to a plurality of areas defining at least one of a boarding zone and a passageway zone.

5. The method according to claim 3, wherein,
- wherein said tickets are located within said areas.
25

6. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
- transmitting said updated actual modified account balance to said ticket; and
30 - replacing said shadow account balance with said account balance.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said steps of transmitting said updated actual modified account balance and
35 replacing said shadow account balance are performed periodically.

18

8. The method according to claim 2, wherein
   - said ticket further comprises an actuating element; and said method further comprising the step of:
   - setting at least one of a registered service and charging-related parameters by means of said actuation element.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said ticket comprises an on/off switch.

10. The method according to claim 3, wherein
    - said ticket further comprises an actuating element; and said method further comprising the step of:
    - setting at least one of a registered service and charging-related parameters by means of said actuation element.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said ticket comprises an on/off switch.

12. The method according to claim 2, wherein:
    - said third data field comprises and indication of said shadow account balance; and
    - said computer is functionally associated with said transceiver;
    and further comprising the steps of:
    - transmitting said shadow account balance to said computer;
    - comparing said balance of said shadow account with said provisional tariff; and
    - displaying an identifier of a ticket having a shadow account balance less than said provisional tariff.

13. The method according to claim 3, wherein:
    - said third data field comprises and indication of said shadow account balance; and
    - said computer is functionally associated with said transceiver;
    and further comprising the steps of:
    - transmitting said shadow account balance to said computer;

19

- comparing said balance of said shadow account with said
  provisional tariff; and
- displaying an identifier of a ticket having a shadow
  account balance less than said provisional tariff.

5

14. The method according to claim 2, wherein said step of
storing is limited to fields identifying said ticket.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein said step of
10 storing further comprises the step of assigning a plurality of
fields identifying said ticket to a one of said ticket
accounts.

16. The method according to claim 3, wherein said step of
15 storing is limited to fields identifying said ticket.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said step of
storing further comprises the step of assigning a plurality of
fields identifying said ticket to a one of said ticket
20 accounts.

18. The method according to claim 2, wherein said steps of
posting are dependent upon at least one of a sum of said actual
tariff, timing of said service, and type of service.

25

19. The method according to claim 3, wherein said steps of
posting are dependent upon at least one of a sum of said actual
tariff, timing of said service, and type of service.

30 20. The method according to claim 2, wherein said computer is
functionally associated with a database, said database
comprising data records identifying said tickets, said data
records periodically updated so as to indicate an updated
actual account balance and ticket usage status.

35